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ABSTRACT

This document contains reports on legislative action affecting higher education in the southern states that held regular or special legislative sessions in 1975. States covered are: West Virginia, Georgia, Virginia, Arkansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama. Some of the issues discussed are: (1) the proposed establishment of medical, dental, and law schools, and schools of veterinary medicine; (2) student costs and student aid; (3) state appropriations to education; (4) tenure; (5) consortia; and (6) grievance procedures. (Author/KE)

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SUMMARY OF STATE LEGISLATION

AFFECTING HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH, 1975

Prepared as a service of the

SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD
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December 1975

This publication contains reports on legislative action affecting higher education in the Southern states which held regular or special legislative sessions this year. The dispatches were prepared for SREB by professional journalists; any opinions expressed are those of the individual authors, not SREB.

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WEST VIRGINIA Don Marsh, The Charleston Gazette

"...the state may end up with two new medical schools."

CHARLESTON...Because of action by the 62nd West Virginia Legislature, the state may end up with two new medical schools.

At this point, nothing is certain. The school that officials want, they may not get. The one they can get, they're not sure they want.

The school they want will be located at Marshall University if it becomes a reality. The Veterans Administration will cooperate in creating and funding the school for its first eight years. After that, its operation will be up to the state.

Chancellor Ben Morton of the Board of Regents said the last major obstacle is the need to provide the Veterans Administration with "reasonable assurance" the school will be accredited if it is created.

An accreditation team was to have visited the Marshall campus at Huntington in early April. Morton said he is optimistic about the outcome.

The second medical school offers a more complicated problem. It is already in existance at Lewisburg, on the campus of what once was the Greenbrier Military School.

The Greenbrier College of Osteopathic Medicine was created by a private group. Supporters have worked hard in two legislative sessions to have the state take it over.

West Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine Created

This year, the legislature passed a bill creating a West Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Another bill appropriated $1.2 million for operating costs in fiscal 75-76.

Originally, Chancellor Morton said he was puzzled by what the legislature meant. One reason was that the only reference to acquisition was the inclusion of a West Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in a part of the state code that lists existing institutions.

Morton asked the attorney general to advise him whether the West Virginia and Greenbrier colleges of osteopathy were the same. He also asked whether the Board of Regents was required to accept the college.

Some legislators resented what they described as the board's foot dragging. There was a recess in the session from March 10 until April 11, caused by a fight between the legislature and the governor over budgetary procedures.

"Stay-or-Pay" Plan Rejected

One rejected bill would have required medical students to practice in the state for four years after graduation or repay to the state the cost of their educations. Morton opposed the "stay-or-pay" plan which passed the Senate, 22-8, but which didn't come to a vote in the House of Delegates. "I understood the concerns of the sponsors, namely in getting doctors in rural counties, but I didn't see that this bill would solve those concerns."

Another bill that failed would have required the state to subsidize the education of state residents who are enrolled in private colleges located in West Virginia. About 5,000 students would have been affected. The cost was estimated at $7 million.

Yet another bill which was unsuccessful would have required that separate presidents be appointed at Bluefield State and Concord colleges. A single administrator now runs both.

There has been strong opposition to the coordinated relationship. A vice president at Bluefield said administrative costs there had doubled and three faculty members at Concord testified in favor of separate presidents.

Morton said he could understand the opposition but he told legislators, "Until you stop me I will pursue the notion of having the best quality education for the least amount of money."

The chancellor said the single presidency approach had cut overhead costs at the colleges by $500,000.

On another matter, Morton opposed a bill that would have put student and faculty representatives on the Board of Regents as voting members. "I was philosophically against them because they represent special interests," he said. The bill failed.

One bill that the chancellor supported also failed. It would have given the board clearer authority against trespassers on college property. In some areas, nonstudents use sleeping and toilet facilities of colleges. The law is vague on the authority that school officials have to remove them from public buildings.

4-Year Nursing at Marshall Among Bills Passed

A number of bills passed. Among them were measures that:

+++Cleared up an ambiguity and allowed registration fees at community colleges to be used to pay bond fees as is the case with registration fees at other colleges.

+++Increased purposes for which capital improvement bond money could be spent to include land. Language of the previous law restricted spending to buildings.

+++Broadened the authority of the West Virginia University Coal Research Center to engage in projects involving energy sources other than coal, a former restriction.

+++Granted a supplemental appropriation of $1,496,000. Most of the money was needed to pay increased cost of utilities.

+++Mandated establishment of nursing programs at various schools. The bill allows work done on the two-year associate degree to count toward a four-year degree. Further, it permits experience and training of licensed practical nurses to count toward two-year degrees and it establishes a four-year nursing degree program at Marshall University. Formerly, only WVU had the four year-program.

+++Requires all governmental units to hold open meetings with certain exceptions. Morton said the "Sunshine Bill" would not affect Board of Regents procedures because board meetings already are open to press and public.

GEORGIA Nancy Lewis, The Atlanta Journal

"...the university system came out with about $9 million less than the regents' final estimate on how much it would cost to run the university system..."

ATLANTA...The Georgia General Assembly this session for the first time has tampered with the method of appropriating money to the University System of Georgia.

The action, which legislators said should increase slightly the student-teacher ratio at the graduate level, was seen as the first visible sign of a continuing struggle by the state legislature to gain more control over how money is spent for state colleges.

Authority for the operations of the state university system--which includes four universities, 12 senior colleges, 15 junior colleges and a technical college--is vested constitutionally in the 15-member Board of Regents which is completely separated from both the legislative and executive branches of government. Board members are appointed by the governor for seven-year terms and confirmed by the senate but are accountable and answerable to no one.

Money for the instructional functions of all schools in the system is appropriated to the Board of Regents as a lump sum and the Board distributes it to the individual schools.

Credit-Hour Formula Determines Appropriations

To determine how much money should be given to the university system, the legislature uses a formula based on the number of credit hours being taught in the system. The formula roughly equates to one instructor and associated support, including libraries, for each 25 freshmen and sophomore students; each 18 junior and senior students, and each 10.5 graduate and professional students. In addition, one research professor is allotted for each 10.5 graduate and professional students. This legislative formula increases, by approximately .86 students, the graduate and professional students-to teacher ratios.

Controversy about the graduate offerings of the university system surfaced early in budget hearings. Legislators objected both to some offerings and the large number of out-of-state students in these high-cost categories. Although the legislature has no direct control over tuition fees, the move to increase the graduate ratios was purported aimed at showing its displeasure with the graduate programs.

New Law School at Georgia State

Apparently entering into the decision also was a late-year vote by the regents approving a new law school for Atlanta's Georgia State University--a vote which displeased many legislators facing a tightened budget.

In all, the university system came out with about $9 million less than the regents' final estimate on how much it would cost to run the university system in fiscal 1976.

Because of the cutbacks, the Board and Chancellor George Simpson imposed an indefinite delay in the starting of the approved new law school and said other new programs will have to be more closely scrutinized.

The total appropriation for the 32-campus university system for fiscal 1976 is $276.9 million, about $17 million more than for 1975 but about $12 million less than Governor George Busbee had recommended.

Higher Tuition Approved

However, $7.5 million of that difference will be made up by higher tuition fees to be charged at Georgia public colleges. The regents had hoped to get all the state money Busbee had recommended and the tuition increase money, too, but the legislature reduced the regents' state appropriation by the amount which will be raised by the tuition increases.

In addition to the $276.9 million, the university system will receive about $11.5 million for five percent pay raises for academic and non-academic personnel. The 1976 instructional budget is $189 million, up from the $185 million of 1975. But approximately $3 million of the increase will be needed to pay higher utility bills. The appropriation for capital outlay, or construction, for 1976 is $10 million, all cash. The 1975 appropriation was about $12 million raised through the sale of general obligation bonds, no cash.

Although the university system's instructional and capital budgets are appropriated in lump sums, other university-associated enterprises do receive categorical appropriations.

The 1976 and 1975 appropriations are: Marine Resources Extension Center, $390,440, $334,956; Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, $575,500, $537,000; Engineering Experiment Station, $2,352,000, $2,204,000; Agricultural Experiment Stations, $9,671,000, $8,894,000; Engineering Extension Division $412,819, $358,500; Cooperative Extension Service, $8,535,041, $8,243,041, and Talmadge Memorial Hospital (of the Medical College of Georgia) $9,970,000, $9,689,000. All of the above include state funds only.

Also included in the regents' total appropriations is nearly $3.2 million in grants to DeKalb Community College, the only public junior college in the state which is not a unit of the university system.

DeKalb is located in suburban Atlanta and is owned and operated by the local board of education. However, it was created under a state junior college law, and therefore is financed through student fees, a local tax levy and state grants.

The grants now are $500 per full time academic year student. A bill passed this session by the legislature will put the school on a formula system, similar to that of the entire university system, beginning in fiscal 1977.

As during last year's session legislators indicated that the lump-sum appropriation for the university system might be in jeopardy. However, a law passed when the university system was created in the 1930s will have to be repealed for the state appropriation to be made on a more detailed category basis. There was no attempt to repeal the law this year.

Contract Plan Questioned

While most of the controversy concerning the university system centered on the budget, some legislators again expressed distaste at the present regional contract plan through the Southern Regional Education Board which affects the student body composition of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. The present contract system gives Georgia students only 39 of 86 freshman slots yearly at the schools. This was raised to 39, from 29 out of 76, last fall after a furor over the vet school during last session.

Citing a shortage of veterinarians in rural areas of Georgia, state legislators objected to the out-of-staters attending the costly school at the expense of Georgia taxpayers.

Two of the senators most vocal about the need for more veterinarians in rural areas succeeded in getting passed a bill which had been vetoed last year which establishes an advisory admissions board to the vet school. However, the bill was narrowed to specify that the advisory board members cannot take an interest in individual admissions at the school.

In addition, the University System Committee of the House plans to study the entire regional contract plan between sessions.

The General Assembly also dealt with another of the areas involving the SREB contract system when it urged the Board of Regents to consider adding a school of optometry in the state. Georgia now has neither a private nor public optometric school and sends 12 Georgia students to the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee, each year for such training.

Although the legislature doesn't have any authority over the creation of colleges either, the body followed through on a resolution it passed last year seeking the conversion of Kennesaw Junior College to a four-year school by including a $250,000 appropriation to cover such costs in the overall budget of the university system. However, the board is not expected to take action on the upgrading of the suburban Atlanta school and the money is expected to lapse.

Tuition Equalization Grant Upped

In the arena of private higher education, the General Asembly increased the number of hours from 10 to 12 quarter hours or the equivalent that private college students must take to qualify for the state's tuition equalization grant which is now $400 per year.

In a separate bill, the legislature upped the grant for first-time freshmen to $500 per year beginning this fall. Other classes are expected to be upped to the $500 level on an annual basis. However, the same bill postponed indefinitely the additon of professional and graduate students to the grant program. These students were to have been added this fall.

The General Assembly previously had authorized $600 per student, including graduate and professional students, to be funded as money becomes available.

While there was a bill to widen the state's Incentive Scholarship Program to include students attending proprietary schools, that bill remained in committee for study.

Student Member to Board Being Studied

Also to be studied until the legislature reconvenes in January are state regulations concerning private colleges and a bill to add a student member to the Board of Regents.

The state attorney general has said the current law, enacted in 1935, covering state regulation of private colleges is unenforceable. Also, the regulatory power now lies with the State Board of Education which governs mostly public schools and which would like to be rid of the responsibilities. A House committee plans to investigate needed changes in the law as well as where the regulatory authority should lie.

A bill which would add a student to the Board of Regents was introduced last session, but sent to a study committee and effectively killed for that session. However, with the convening of a new legislature this year the old bill died and was not re-introduced in the Senate after its original authors didn't return to the legislature.

A similar bill was introduced in the House, by an Atlanta Republican whose district includes Georgia Tech, but he allowed the bill to remain in committee after a poll of Democrats showed three to one opposition to it.

The state's system of vocational-technical schools fared well in the State Department of Education's Appropriation, but the Georgia Postsecondary Education Commission (1202 commission) didn't do so well.

The state's 26 vocational schools were allocated $4,383,472 in capital construction money as well as an additional $2,650,064 for short-term courses.

The 1202 commission received $45,130 for fiscal 1976.

VIRGINIA Allen McCreary, The Richmond News Leader

"A generally morose economic outlook pervaded the 1975 session..."

A financially wary 1975 Virginia General Assembly approved the concept of nonrepayable state grants to private college students, but postponed funding these grants and took a generally conservative approach to other higher education matters.

Funding could come as early as the 1976 session. The level of funding and regulations for administering the grants will not be determined until later this year when the legislature receives the results of a study by the State Council of Higher Education.

Students in Private Colleges Eligible for Grants

That study will investigate, among other things, whether the grants should be keyed to demonstrated financial need. Virginia residents attending the state's private colleges would be eligible.

A move for immediate conversion to grants of some $2.5 million appropriated for state loans to private college students failed. The $2.5 million will be awarded during the 1975-76 academic year in amounts up to a maximum of $400 per student. The loan program, in its second year, could grow into a $10 million operation for the 1976-78 biennium if the legislature approves grants up to $400 for the more than 12,000 students expected to be eligible for the awards.

A constitutional amendment approved by Virginia voters last November permitted the legislature to provide grants to students in private colleges. The amendment also authorized the General Assembly to permit contracts for educational and related services between private colleges and the state or any political subdivision. The session approved such contracts.

A smaller state financial aid program which provides grants based on financial need to students in public colleges and loans based on need to students in private colleges was amended this year to allow grants based on need to private college students. About $1 million was appropriated for 1975-76 for that program during the 1974 session and the level of funding was not changed this year.

A generally morose economic outlook pervaded the 1975 session and flavored almost all the debate in the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees. A shortage of state revenues had necessitated some $40 million in reductions in state agency operating budgets by the beginning of the session early in January.

By February, state fiscal experts were saying that a hoped-for upturn in the state's economic activity by the latter half of this year would have to be factored into revenue projections to stave off further agency budget cuts.

Vet School Funds Removed

In other measures with budgetary implications, the 46-day "short" session of the legislature:

+++Rejected a proposal for a law school at George Mason University to serve the Northern Virginia region. GMU officials said it would not require immediate funding because an abandoned high school could house the project.

+++Turned down a $144.5 million bond issue proposal geared largely for capital outlay projects at public colleges and universities.

+++Removed from the general funds budget $225,000 appropriated in 1974 for planning a school of veterinary medicine at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Most of the discussion concerning the controversial proposal for a school of veterinary medicine took place between the end of the 1974 session and the beginning of this year's session, and the removal of the planning funds took place without debate.

Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., and the State Council of Higher Education had insisted repeatedly that consideration of a proposed veterinary medicine school -- its planning, financing and operation -- should be considered within the context of the traditional regional perspective of sharing of facilities and programs among Southern states. The governor and key legislators had said that the fact that North Carolina, Tennessee and Mississippi were moving ahead with plans for such schools prescribed caution in proceeding with a school in Virginia. If plans in those states are still progressing when the 1976 General Assembly convenes, some legislators say that Virginia should consider sending students to one or more of the other schools instead of building a new school.

In other action, the lawmakers:

+++Defeated a bill that would have allowed each of the state's 40 senators to appoint two students each year to the entering class of Virginia's two public medical schools, the Medical College of Virginia* and the University of Virginia medical school.

*The medical college retained its name after a 1968 merger with Richmond Professional Institute which resulted in the formation of Virginia Commonwealth University. It is known as the university's health sciences division.

+++Directed the State Council of Higher Education to conduct a study of tenure and workload policies in state-supported colleges and universities.

+++Authorized, without legislative action, a Center on Aging at Virginia Commonwealth University. The university has requested higher education council approval to offer a master of arts degree in gerontology based on an interdisciplinary program.

+++Rejected a Senate bill aimed at changing the higher education council's policy for coordinating continuing higher education offerings.

+++Permitted state-supported colleges and universities to establish administrative procedures which would allow persons receiving on-campus parking citations to pay fines at the institutions rather than in local courts.

+++Authorized issuance of $20 million in higher education institution bonds for construction of a complex of buildings at the University of Virginia to be leased to the U. S. Government for operation of the Federal Executive Institute and Managerial Training Center. Revenues from the lease of the facilities will pay the bonded indebtedness.

+++Killed in committee a proposed collective bargaining bill for public employes similar to bills which met the same fate in previous legislative sessions. The bill did not mention higher education specifically but was opposed by presidents of state-supported colleges and universities.

GMU Criticizes Council's Law Report

Bills to establish a law school at GMU were introduced in the Senate and the House of Delegates with the entire Northern Virginia delegation listed as patrons. The bills, in effect, were an appeal to the legislature of the higher education council's denial of approval for the school in its December 1974 meeting. The House Education Committee, by a 12 to 6 vote, passed the bill indefinitely.

The higher education council had reported earlier that the public law schools at the College of William and Mary and the University of Virginia and the private law schools at the University of Richmond and Washington and Lee University would expand enough to handle the expected increase in law school enrollment through the next decade.

GMU representatives criticized the council's law school report and said they interpreted the council's position as supporting a quasi-monopoly which would protect lawyers from the competition of additional law graduates.

Opponents of the bill said that the "regional law school" argument advanced by Northern Virginia legislators could also be made for Tidewater, Richmond and Western Virginia. They said the state does not have sufficient resources to establish expensive graduate and professional degree programs at every regional institution and that such programs must be a state resource and not merely regional resources.

$144.5 Million Bond Referendum Opposed

The initial move for the $144.5 million bond referendum gained little support in the Senate. The referendum was opposed by the chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees and by the governor. Opponents insisted the timing was not good; that future economic developments were uncertain; that the proposal had been hastily drawn without the opportunity for soliciting the broad public support necessary for voter approval.

Supporters of the proposal said the bonds would stimulate the lagging economy and that the cost of constructing needed facilities would be less in 1976 than later in the decade.

A compromise study resolution was offered by the chief patron of the bond bill, but the resolution died when the House Appropriations Committee took no action on it.

Bills in the House and Senate providing for legislative appointments to state-supported medical schools were defended by legislators who said that not enough medical school graduates are setting up practices in rural areas.

Opposition was lead by the two state-supported medical schools. Their representatives maintained that the appointments would not solve the problem of the shortage of rural physicians. Opponents also noted possible accreditation problems if the bills were adopted. They said the family practice residency program which places medical students in various parts of the state is a better way of encouraging physicians to locate in rural areas.

Tenure Study Resolution Passed

Senator Edward E. Willey, D-Richmond, head of the Senate Finance Committee, had hoped for a General Assembly Commission to study the tenure question, but the state's tight financial situation led him to request the higher education council to conduct the study.

More than a dozen representatives of faculty groups attended a public hearing on the tenure study resolution. Only one person opposed the study, but some questioned whether it was really a pressing need. The tenure study

resolution passed the House and Senate without a dissenting vote. The study is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 1, 1976, and its findings will be reported to the Governor and the General Assembly.

House and Senate bills to establish the Center on Aging at Virginia Commonwealth University were determined to be unnecessary because of the State Council of Higher Education's earlier approval of the center.

The 1974 General Assembly delegated to the council the authority to approve or disapprove the establishment of new organizational units such as colleges, branches, divisions and centers. In that context, legislative leaders said, the bills to establish the center through legislative action were not needed.

Consortia Compromise Bill Defeated

The higher education council's policy for coordinating continuing higher education says that whenever possible the state's 23 community colleges should provide the freshmen and sophomore undergraduate continuing education courses in the six regions designated for continuing education consortia.

The four-year colleges and universities within the consortium regions should, whenever possible, provide the junior and senior courses and also offer those graduate continuing education courses which they are authorized by the council to conduct and have the necessary resources to provide.

Under the policy, the state's two comprehensive universities, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the University of Virginia, would supplement the offerings of the regional institutions and would provide programs that are not available and/or should not be developed at the regional institution.

The University of Virginia, concerned that the council policy would limit some of its traditional course offerings and in-service training courses for local school division personnel, supported a Senate bill providing that nothing in the council policy would infringe on the right of contract between a state-supported college or university and any persons, business group, or school division.

Local school superintendents said they were concerned that they would be forced to contract with local colleges and would not have the opportunity to contract with the University of Virginia.

After lengthy debate in the Senate Education and Health Committee, a compromise bill was drawn up. The bill provided for the right of unlimited contracting, but it required that no general fund tax dollars could be used to support a program brought into a consortium region by an outside institution if that program was already offered by an institution within the consortium region.

The compromise bill passed the Senate and went to the House. The higher education council and presidents of several state-supported colleges and universities opposed the bill before the House Education Committee.

The council representatives told committee members that the regional consortia, established by the General Assembly in 1973, should be given time to work out problems such as the ones outlined in the Senate bill.

The education committee defeated the Senate bill and also refused to consider a substitute study resolution requesting the higher education council to compare various operational costs for continuing higher education.

Grievance Procedures Changes

The legislature considered and passed by indefinitely two house bills to make changes in the grievance procedures at public colleges and universities.

One bill carried over from the 1974 session called for revisions in the grievance procedures of community colleges to bring them in line with procedures established by the governor for other state employes. Because of recent changes in the community college grievance procedures, including provision for appeal to a committee rather than a community college president, the House Education Committee agreed that no legislation was needed.

Another bill originating in the House of Delegates proposed that presidents and the teaching and research staffs at public four-year colleges and universities be subject to the existing state grievance procedure.

The four-year colleges and community colleges opposed the bill, contending that existing institutional grievance procedures for faculties and staff are more appropriate than the state procedure.

The chief patron of the bill agreed to let it pass by indefinitely without debate, but he indicated that he expected to see changes in institutional grievance procedures to bring them more in line with the state procedure.

The legislature also transferred the responsibilities of the Higher Education Facilities Commission to the State Council of Higher Education. The federal government has indicated it will not fund the commission beyond July 1, 1975.

Federal funds for facilities, if available, will instead be appropriated to the states' "1202 commissions." The governor has designated the Council of Higher Education as Virginia's 1202 commission for planning of all postsecondary education activities. The facilities commissions' responsibilities include the administration of federal grants to public and private institutions of higher education for the purchase of equipment and facilities.

Commission Presents Critical Analysis of Community Colleges

Three weeks after the close of the legislative session, the General Assembly's year-old Legislative Audit and Review Commission delivered its first report, a critical analysis of the 23-campus Virginia Community College System.

The report showed that too-high enrollment projections in some schools resulted in excess appropriations to the system amounting to $9.1 million from 1970 to 1974. Some $4 million was returned to the state and the remainder was spent with state budget office approval, however. Nine of the two-year commuter colleges had more space than they needed in the fall of 1974, while several others, including the urban area schools, had too little space, the report said. The auditors also cited a proliferation of programs in many schools, numerous classes with fewer than 10 students, and lack of an updated state master plan for the system.

They reported that the overwhelming majority of the students were satisfied with the quality of teaching, counseling and job placement, and that faculty productivity in terms of student credit hours produced within acceptable limits in all but five schools.

The report recommended stricter classification of students for budget purposes, more coordination and planning for the system through the higher education council, and a complete review of all instructional costs, which vary widely from college to college.

Legislative members of the commission said some changes will be made in the system as a result of the study, and that additional recommendations are likely before the 1976 General Assembly convenes.

ARKANSAS Richard Allin, Arkansas Gazette

"The trend to take higher education closer to the people continued in Arkansas..."

The 1975 Arkansas General Assembly was almost, if not quite, successfully resisting the impulse to start "branches" of existing colleges and universities in favored cities. They succumbed to the temptation twice, then established a system that will screen any such temptations in the future.

Appropriations for operations were boosted 20 percent for the new biennium, but only a relatively small portion of capital funds went for new construction. The greater amount was applied to deferred maintenance and improvement of existing plants. Higher education officials felt that a leveling of enrollments meant that funds should go primarily to repair and upgrade than to construct new facilities.

The trend to take higher education closer to the people continued in Arkansas, and overall control of the state-run system was further centralized.

Meanwhile, students attending private colleges became eligible for state scholarships.

In Arkansas the universities and colleges funnel appropriation request through the State Board of Higher Education, which makes a unified recommendation to the legislature. The recently ended regular session followed, almost without exception, Board recommendations for operating and capital programs.

Overall, funds for operating purposes will increase from about $86 million for 1976-77, an increase of $29 million.

The legislature allocated $25,588,819 for capital improvement, of which about $9 million will go for new construction or to supplement funds for construction already in progress. The most important of the new buildings will be a $2.5 million allocation for a Fine Arts Building at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, a new infirmary and library addition at the University of Central Arkansas, a new Physical Education building for the Beebe Branch of Arkansas State University, and a student pavilion and new livestock facilities at the Arkansas State University at Jonesboro.

Summary of Legislation

The Arkansas General Assembly adopted the following measures which affect higher education generally or particularly. They are listed in order of passage:

+++As a start, legislative acts authorized State College of Arkansas at Conway (formerly Arkansas State Teachers College) to change its name to University of Central Arkansas; and Henderson State College at Arkadelphia (once Henderson State Teachers College) can now call itself Henderson State University.

+++An act to require that all cash funds of colleges, universities, and other state agencies be pre-audited by the state. Funds can still be deposited in local banks.

+++A measure to limit to eight the number of community colleges which can be established by the State Board of Higher Education.

+++A measure that identifies military personnel in Arkansas as residents for higher education fee-paying purposes.

+++An establishment of a branch of Southern State College (Magnolia) at El Dorado, and placing the Southwest Technical Institution (a vocational-technical school) under Southern State as a branch. Some research is still necessary to determine what the State Board of Higher Education must do to establish the El Dorado branch.

+++An act to establish a state scholarship program for Arkansas residents attending private colleges.

+++An act to appropriate funds for administration of the College and University Desegregation Plan in the Department of Higher Education.

+++An act establishing, with more members, a new Admissions Board of the University of Arkansas Medical School.

+++A measure to establish the State Student Incentive Grant Program, a 50-50 matching program for needy students.

+++An act to allow colleges to become "universities" by act of their boards of trustees, provided the State Board of Higher Education approves.

+++A measure to establish a full time branch of the University of Arkansas Law School in Little Rock. The main law school remains on the Fayetteville campus. The Little Rock branch had previously been a night school.

+++An act appropriating funds for a College of Engineering Management at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro.

+++An act that provides for persons over age 60 to attend an Arkansas college or university free of tuition and fees.

+++A resolution suggesting the Arkansas State University at Jonesboro host an annual conference for community colleges in the northeast section of the state.

+++ An act authorizing colleges and universities to teach vocational-technical courses as extension work, and allowing off-campus student credit hours to be counted as those earned on campus.

+++An act authorizing the Academic Common Market, to allow Arkansas residents to attend programs in other Southern states which are not offered in Arkansas and not be required to pay out-of-state fees.

Several Measures Vetoed

Governor David Pryor vetoed several measures which would have provided, among other things, establishment of a branch of Henderson State University at Mena, appropriations for certain renovations, and to allow free tuition for persons in the military reserve who are attending college.

The General Assembly also directed the State Board of Higher Education to review, for approval or disapproval, any new degrees to be offered by public or private institutions of learning, including those of proprietary education (private schools of accountancy, drafting, radio-television engineering, etc.)

The legislature itself considered no new policies of teacher tenure or academic freedom. The state Supreme Court, however, ordered the re-instatement of a history professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock who had been ordered suspended without pay by a lower court for espousing Marxist principles. The professor is Dr. Grant Cooper, a professed member of the Progressive Labor Party.

Post-graduate degrees in education were authorized, by inclusion of funds for the purpose, for Southern State College at Magnolia, and Arkansas Polytechnic College at Russellville. Both offer an undergraduate program in education.

The Arkansas Post Secondary Education Planning Commission, which had been established by executive order of the Governor in April 1974, was confirmed by the General Assembly. It is a "1202 Commission," and with the exception of five additional members, is essentially identical with the State Board of Higher Education which has overall charge of coordination and governance of higher education in Arkansas.

STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES FOR

ARKANSAS STATE-SUPPORTED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

1974/75, 1975/76 and 1976/77

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
Ark. Polytechnic (Russellville)	$2,783,546	$3,373,300	$3,608,918
Ark. State Univ. (Jonesboro)	$8,406,206	$9,731,662	$11,377,701
Ark. State Univ. (Beebe)	$630,844	$804,965	$945,770
Henderson St. Univ. (Arkadelphis)	$3,970,413	$4,440,454	$4,847,553
Southern St. College (Magnolia)	$2,489,821	$3,975,409	$4,785,314
Univ. of Central Ark. (Conway)	$5,493,684	$6,229,068	$7,118,324
Univ. of Arkansas:			
System Administration	---	$276,847	$300,134
Fayetteville Campus	$19,393,446	21,420,804	22,836,897
Grad. Inst. of Tech.	741,370	834,469	876,192
Research & Ext. Center	736,715	877,129	918,485
Grad. Sch. of Soc. Work	278,208	312,024	327,625
Agri. Experiment Station	4,098,801	4,892,082	5,177,312
Criminal Procedures Inst.	18,750	18,750	19,688
Coop. Ext. Service	4,721,311	5,393,442	5,946,174
TOTAL - Univ. of Ark. Fund	$29,988,601	$34,025,545	$36,402,507
Univ. of Arkansas (Little Rock)	$5,557,736	$7,423,078	$9,094,916
Univ. of Arkansas (Monticello)	$2,405,787	$2,711,366	$3,005,916
Univ. of Arkansas (Pine Bluff)	$4,335,584	$4,794,045	$5,070,746
*TOTAL - Colleges and Univ.	$66,084,833	$77,687,992	$86,666,075

*(Also includes minor funds for programs and additional students not listed.)

COMMUNITY COLLEGES	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
East Ark. Community College	$648,646	$836,264	$1,020,879
Garland Cty. Com. College	814,068	931,157	1,140,558
North Arkansas Com. College	536,456	663,173	735,214
Phillips Cty. Com. College	1,035,927	1,228,066	1,430,648
Westark Com. College	1,800,704	2,254,245	2,584,218
Mississippi Cty. Com. College	---	650,628	892,867
*TOTAL - Community Colleges	$4,836,631	$7,190,603	$8,363,454
*(Includes miscellaneous funds.)			
Univ. of Ark. Medical Ctr.	$14,002,415	$16,453,094	$17,806,147
GRAND TOTAL Colleges and Universities	$85,221,271	$101,653,086	$113,209,917
SUBSIDIES TO ARKANSAS STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGES OUTSIDE ARK.			
Optometry	$60,000	$86,000	$120,000
Dental A d-SREB	347,510	436,583	439,833
Non-SREB	110,000	135,000	150,000
Veterinary Aid-SREB	69,000	189,000	396,000
Non-SREB	164,930	334,040	350,040
TOTAL	751,440	$1,180,623	$1,455,873
STATE SCHOLARSHIP & STATE STUDENT INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAMS	---	$350,000	$250,000
GRAND TOTAL - ALL	$85,982,711	$103,202,460	$114,935,053

MARYLAND Tom C. Stuckey, The Associated Press

"...few bills dealing with higher educatior were introduced at th: 90-day session, and fewer still, most of them of minor impact, were enacted."

ANNAPOLIS...The Maryland Commission on the Structure and Governance of Education, almost ready to issue its final report some 28 months after it was created, appealed to the 1975 General Assembly not to enact bills affecting the structure of public education in Maryland. The legislature, for the most part, complied with the request from the Rosenberg Commission at the annual session which ended April 7. The result was that few bills dealing with higher education were introduced at the 90-day session, and fewer still, most of them of minor impact, were enacted.

The two bills with the most impact would elevate Morgan State College and Towson State College to university status. The Towson change would be one of name only, and the institution would remain as a part of the state college system operating under the Board of Trustees of State Colleges. Morgan State, on the other hand, would become a separate institution with its own 12-member board of trustees.

Sharp Departure from Tripartite System

The change in status for Morgan State represents a sharp departure from Maryland's tripartite system of higher education. Currently the public institutions of higher education--with the exception of St. Mary's College, which has its own board--are divided into three segments: the University of Maryland, the community colleges and the state colleges. Morgan would be pulled out of this system under the bill enacted by the 1975 General Assembly. The Morgan trustees, however, would still be answerable to the Maryland Council for Higher Education, in addition to the governor and the legislature. The council, for example, would have veto power over creation of new professional schools and graduate programs proposed by the Morgan trustees.

The Towson and Morgan bills were enacted in the last few days of the session, both gaining approval in the face of opposition from legislators who argued that the request from the Rosenberg Commission should be honored. Black legislators, who made the Morgan bill a top priority item for the 1975 session, were instrumental in gaining university status for the Baltimore institution, which has a predominantly-black enrollment. The Morgan bill effectively cleared the way for the Towson State bill, although supporters succeeded in getting the latter measure through the House of Delegates only after the house had once rejected it and only in the last hours of the final day of the session.

While Morgan officials pushed for their own board and the independence that would come with it, Dr. James L. Fisher, president of Towson State, testified before legislative committees that he was interested only in a name change from college to university. He said status as a university, even if the change was only cosmetic, would help his institution compete for outside grants. Legislative skeptics grumbled that the name change was probably only the first step toward separate status and that other colleges would probably be scrambling to follow the Morgan-Towson lead.

Of the remaining legislation enacted by the General Assembly, probably the most significant was a bill allowing the state's university and college employes to choose outside pension systems instead of requiring them to participate in the state system. Under state pension rules, employes who leave the system before completing five years can recover their own contributions but not the money contributed by state government. The bill enacted by the legislature will allow them to put both their money and the state contributions into approved private pension plans. The measure covers professional employes only.

Three Scholarship Bills Passed

Among the dozen or so bills affecting higher education which were enacted at the 1975 session were three dealing with scholarships. These bills would:

+++Provide scholarships for tuition and fees at any public institution of higher education for Maryland residents who were prisoners of war in Vietnam. Estimates were that about 20 former war prisoners would qualify under the bill.

+++Add a community college president and a college financial aid officer to the State Scholarship Board, increasing membership on the board from seven to nine.

+++Remove a requirement that applicants for the state scholarships must pass the examination given by the scholarship board to be eligible for state aid. Applicants would still have to take the examination and would have to meet several other requirements, including having been accepted at an approved institution of higher learning.

Another bill enacted by the General Assembly authorizes a $10 million bond issue for construction of community college facilities.

The bills which failed to win approval at the 1975 session failed to stir much debate or controversy, except for the issue of scholarship reform, which again floundered in the state senate.

Community college officials made a futile appeal to the state to pick up a larger share of the cost of educating a student at the two-year institutions, but none of the several bills along that line even got out of a

house or senate committee. The current aid formula provides that the state will pick up 50 percent of the total per pupil cost with the local government kicking in 28 percent and the student 22 percent. The maximum state per pupil contribution is set at $700, however, and Dr. Alfred O'Connell, executive director of the State Board of Community Colleges, told fiscal committees of both the house and senate that $700 no longer covers 50 percent of the cost at any of the state's 16 community colleges. He said that even $800 wouldn't reach the 50 percent level at more than half of the colleges, and warned that tuition increases would be inevitable without additional state help. Legislators listened sympathetically and then told the community they couldn't help because there wasn't any money available to increase state aid.

Another bill which got nowhere would have guaranteed collective bargaining rights to academic employes at all Maryland institutions of higher learning. It would not have authorized such employes to strike, but would have provided for disputes to be submitted to binding arbitration.

Scholarship Reform Ends in Stalemate

The senate again fought at length over the issue of scholarship reform, and again matters ended in a stalemate. Under the present law, each of the 47 senators gets $14,500 a year to pass out in scholarships, with a maximum of $1,500 to any one student. All awards are four-year awards and continue for that period of time unless the student leaves school or gives up the scholarship. Each senator gets an additional $14,500 each year so that, by his fourth year in office, his scholarship recipients are getting about $58,000 a year. There is also a small House of Delegates program which brings Maryland's legislative scholarship program up to about $3 million a year. There is no requirement that the financial aid be handed out on the basis of need, and the absence of need as a requirement is costing the state federal scholarship funds.

Two major senate bills to revise the scholarship program were defeated, one in a tie vote, after lengthy floor debate. One bill would have transferred control over scholarship funds to the scholarship board by 1979. The other would have increased the amount of scholarship money and would have allowed the board to give out 50 percent of the funds. The remaining 50 percent would still have been given out by the senators, but they would have had to pick recipients from a list prepared by the board, ranking applicants by need.

Tight Budget Restrictions

Governor Marvin Mandel, striving successfully to avoid any major tax increases, imposed tight restrictions on the fiscal 1976 budget, and higher education suffered along with most other state agencies. Total general fund appropriations, after the very minor reductions made by the

legislature in Mandel's budget, amounted to $196,734,916 for the University of Maryland, the state colleges and the community colleges. This was up about 9 percent from the $177,439,759 appropriated the previous year.

The following table shows the current budget for state institutions and the final appropriation for next year:

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND	1974-75	1975-76
General	$106,645,749	$119,347,533
Special	100,773,440	110,195,510
Federal	2,439,148	3,056,825
Total	$209,858,337	$232,599,868

STATE COLLEGES	1974-75	1975-76
General	$ 39,350,409	$ 44,064,918
Special	26,694,970	31,470,656
Federal	9,312,921	9,149,665
Total	$ 75,358,300	$ 84,685,239

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE	1974-75	1975-76
General	$ 2,257,201	$ 2,333,965
Special	1,105,438	1,338,925
Federal	45,000	58,500
Total	$ 3,407,639	$ 3,731,390

The budget contained a lump sum appropriation of $30,988,500 for the state's community colleges, compared with $29,186,400 for the current year. The state pays 50 percent of the cost of educating a student up to a maximum of $700.

The capital improvements budget for the University of Maryland totaled $20,923,400. Included in the projects for the main campus at College Park were $2,500,000 in supplemental funds for construction of a physical education building, $5,546,000 for a human ecology building,

$4,594,000 for a dining hall, and $1,130,000 for extension and replacement of utilities. The Eastern Shore campus got $698,100 for renovation of the administration building.

Among the projects at the state colleges were $750,000 to help with conversion of a student center at Bowie into a dining facility; $2,470,000 for construction of an administration building at Frostburg State College; $2,591,000 for an addition to the service building and $1,880,000 for renovations to provide additional administrative service area, both at Morgan State; $1,990,000 for construction of a central dining hall, and $2,269,923 for remodeling of Caruthers Hall to provide additional instructional and administrative space, both at Salisbury State; $1,820,900 to help with construction of a physical education facility and with purchase of equipment for the facility and $1,959,800 for renovation of the dining hall. St. Mary's College got $3,962,000 for construction of a fine arts center.

The total capital budget for the university and the colleges was $44,326,700.

MISSISSIPPI James S. Saggus, The Associated Press

"'It's going to be a very difficult year for the universities,' said Thrash."

JACKSON...Mississippi will give its state universities record financial support next year but officials warn that tuition increases may become necessary anyway.

The 1975 legislative session approved $70,199,809 for the institution of higher learning, up almost $8 million from the budget for the current year which ends June 30. But Dr. E. E. Thrash, executive secretary of the State College Board, said the schools needed all of the $76.1 million which had been requested.

"It's going to be a very difficult year for the universities," said Thrash. "The general support came out at about a 12 percent increase. Inflation last year generally was conceded to be 11 or 12 percent. We just held the line on inflation. We expect to have about 2,000 more students and would need 108 new faculty members to handle them. None of these is provided for."

"Hard Decisions Ahead"

Thrash said that while board officials "are indeed grateful to the legislature for the extra effort made to give us the money we came out with, we have some hard decisions ahead. We must see where we go from here. The board has got to decide whether to increase tuition. Students have not had a significant tuition increase since 1968. The board may look hard at the tuition possibilities."

The class I universities--Mississippi State, Mississippi and Southern Mississippi--got legislative approval to generate up to 31 percent of their total budget from their own sources, such as tuition charges and grants. The figure had been 28 percent. No changes were made in the percentages of class II (26 percent) and class III (24 percent) schools.

The university appropriation included $65,833,674 in general support money; $1,390,318 for Gulf Coast Research Laboratory; $1,720,420 for off-campus centers and extension work; $1 million for library improvements; $175,000 for matching Sea Grant funds, and small amounts for other specified purposes. The legislature earmarked enough of the money to provide 3 percent cost-of-living salary increases for all employes, plus merit raises under general board policies.

Because of the economic situation, lawmakers considered few higher education proposals that did not fund current programs. One exception was the perennial constitutional amendment to shorten terms of College Board members from the current 12 years to eight. This time it died

without debate in the House when caught by a deadline before lawmakers got to it on their calendar.

Loan Bills Passed

Other exceptions included measures to:

+++Broaden the medical education loan program. The bill signed by Governor Bill Waller boosted the maximum loan to $24,000 and included a limited forgiveness feature.

+++Create a postsecondary education loan program. The bill signed by Waller still lacks state funding.

+++And coordinate the work of the Natchez branches of Copiah-Lincoln Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi to create in effect a full four-year college program. Under the new law, the USM branch will offer the work above the junior college level.

The student loan fund bill provides up to $2,500 a year for four years, when funds are available. It sets up a three-member board composed of representatives of senior and junior colleges and the governor. Backers had counted on a $115,000 appropriation, which would have made possible $500,000 in loans through the federally guaranteed loan program. However, the appropriation got clogged in the legislative machinery. Backers hope that both state and private schools will be able to come up with some seed money to get the program started. They said that commercial banks have become reluctant to make student loans under the current money market conditions.

The medical loan bill modernizes an existing program which has $400,000 in funds but is used little because it is not competitive with the medical loan program of the armed services. The present program will lend a total of only $5,000, while student costs are computed at $6,000 a year. The present program also requires complete repayment by the student and requires a student go into general practice. The new program will embrace dentists for the first time and will be open to any medical student going into primary care fields. Besides boosting the total loan limit to $24,000, it permits forgiveness of one-fifth the debt for those going into practice in towns of 7,500 and less population. It also authorizes local government to pay on the doctor's debt if they desire to do so as a means of inducing a physician to locate there.

The Natchez college bill reorganized the Co-Lin junior college district to give Adams County (Natchez) additional representation on the governing board. It requires co-equal campuses at Wesson, where the home campus has been, and Natchez, where a satellite operation has been in effect. The Co-Lin branch will be coordinated with the USM branch, which under a 1974 law can grant degrees. The USM branch also offers master's degrees.

Senator Troy Watkins of Natchez, a member of the local committee seeking sites for both schools, said, "We hope to find side-by-side permanent locations for them, where they can work together." The two branches are now in temporary facilities nine miles apart.

Several legislators continued their war with the College Board over the work load permitted for students at the university branches dotted across the state. When a loan program bill came up in the House, several Gulf Coast lawmakers offered an unsuccessful amendment to force the board to permit 11 semester hours instead of the six now allowed. Backers said six hours was not enough work to qualify a student for full GI Bill benefits. Representative Gerald Blessey of Biloxi said the 11-hour provision was in the law now, but the board was ignoring it. Representative Horace Harned of Starkville, chairman of the Universities and Colleges Committee, opposed it on grounds it might be the first step toward setting up fullscale universities at the branch campuses.

Duplications in Programs Cited

Several legislators argued on various college measures that there were too many duplications in programs at existing schools. The legislature's Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Committee called for the board to set up statewide objectives for higher education, and goals for each university. It said the board should review such matters periodically.

The PEER committee said procedure for allocating funds to each institution should be refined to take into account their diverse educational and supportive needs.

The board reported to lawmakers later that it was making "surprising progress" in a $32,000 study authorized by the 1974 legislature into university programs and areas of duplication. Dr. Tom Meredith, academic programs officer of the board, told the House Universities and Colleges Committee that the institutions were cooperating and he hoped to finish the task this year. "We are building up an inventory of information on where programs are offered so we will know if we need to establish a new one somewhere," he said. The information will help schools determine the cost per student hour and decide whether a program in the catalog is actually in demand and worthwhile. He said in many instances programs that seemed to be duplicates were not because their emphases were different.

One bill on the lighter side caused a small furor before dying quietly in the House Universities and Colleges Committee. The measure, which passed the Senate, would have allowed Mississippi State University to keep its football noisemakers--the clanging cowbells it has long used--despite a Southeastern Conference ban against such artificial noisemakers. One source said the measure might have gotten State into trouble with the SEC. Bulldog backers were bitter about the SEC prohibition, saying nobody fussed until State teams began winning games.

Most of the other higher education bills were appropriations.

Dental School to Begin in Fall

Lawmakers gave the University of Mississippi's new school of dentistry $1,059,656 to begin operations this fall, enough for what Thrash called "a reasonably good start." The legislature provided $1.5 million in revenue sharing money for plans and construction preliminaries for the veterinary medicine school authorized for Mississippi State last year. It is now in the process of hiring faculty.

The legislature provided $20,235,000 in state aid to the junior colleges, which also draw support from their local districts. The State Budget Commission had recommended $18.2 million for the two-year schools and the final figure was one of the few instances in which lawmakers gave more than recommended. The increase showed the political clout of the junior colleges. In addition, vocational and technical schools got another $18.9 million.

Other major appropriations included $8,824,956 for the University of Mississippi medical school, compared to the current $7,255,882; and $8,766,331 for the school's teaching hospital, compared to the current figure of $7,495,000. The medical school expects to get another $11.1 million from fees and special sources, while the hospital expects another $19.2 million from similar sources.

The University of Mississippi nursing school will get $793,229, the USM nursing program $1.2 million, and the Mississippi University for Women nursing program $1,077,238.

Lawmakers also designated several university construction projects for preplanning, with the actual construction to be authorized and funded later. The projects included a $2.5 million marine education center at Gulf Coast Research Laboratory; a $3.5 million industrial technology building at Alcorn State; a $2 million physical education instructional facility at Delta State; a $5 million assembly building at Jackson State; a $2 million classroom building at MUW, and a $6 million technology building at USM.

PART TWO

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FLORIDA David Schultz, Palm Beach Post

"University administrators considered themselves lucky to escape with even an austere budget and braced for the very real possibility of more drastic cuts next year."

TALLAHASSEE...As in most states, tight money was the major story for higher education in the 1975 session of the Florida Legislature. University administrators considered themselves lucky to escape with even an austere budget and braced for the very real possibility of more drastic cuts next year.

In general revenue dollars appropriated, the university system got nearly $8.5 million less than was appropriated the previous year. Mid-year cutbacks mandated by the deteriorating revenue picture had given educators an unwanted opportunity to prepare for the belt-tightening process.

No Pay Raises

So severe was the recessionary impact on state government that the legislature failed for the first time in several years to provide for pay raises for state employees, including those in higher education. The only bright spot for the Florida Board of Regents was a legislative decision to give the Regents vastly increased flexibility in deciding how available funds may be spent.

The general revenue appropriation for the university system was $248,125,063, plus $26.1 million for capital outlay. The community college system was appropriated $152,833,681 from general revenue -- about $7 million more than in 1974 -- along with $24.9 million for capital outlay. A limit of 156,035 full-time students was imposed on the community colleges.

In the Senate, where President Dempsey Barron has committed himself to even more sweeping cutbacks in spending next year, an across-the-board 15 percent cut in the administrative budgets of all nine state universities was added to the appropriations bill. The amendment was dropped only after much negotiation between senators and administrators and an agreement that cutbacks would be made voluntarily by the universities.

Tuition Increases

For the third year in a row, the legislature chose to delegate its authority to set tuition fees to the Regents, with the result that tuition will be going up again beginning in September. The Regents adopted a tuition

increase resolution a month before the legislature convened and there was no serious effort to veto the increase. A bill taking the power to set tuition fees away from the Regents also failed.

Currently, the rates are $13 per credit hour for undergraduates and $16.50 for graduate students. The new rates will be $14 per credit hour for lower level undergraduates (freshmen and sophomores), $15 for upper level undergraduates, $20 for course-taking graduate students and $22 for thesis and dissertation graduate students. Fees for medical students were raised from $271 to $338 per quarter. Out-of-state students pay a surcharge of $23 for lower level undergraduates, $32 for upper level undergraduates and $37 for graduates. The surcharge for medical students is $775. The tuition increases will yield an estimated $7.5 million per year.

Far fewer bills relating to higher education were passed in the 1975 session than in prior years, partly because of the fiscal restraints and partly because the legislature was preoccupied with internal power fights and scandals involving several elected state officials. The session ended a day prior to its customary adjournment on the 60th day.

"Largely Housekeeping Measures"

The bills which were passed were largely housekeeping measures with the exception of an omnibus bill providing for for:

+++Establishment of a Florida Public Post Secondary Education Finance Committee to make recommendations by March 1976 for eliminating duplication and improving the current funding programs.

+++The use of university and community college facilities by such direct support groups as athletic associations, alumni associations and foundations.

+++Replacement of the current student financial aid fund with a program of short term loans and creation of a Florida Student Financial Aid Advisory Council.

+++Establishment of an Office of Environmental Education under a deputy state education commissioner to coordinate activities of the various divisions of the Department of Education concerning environmental education.

+++Establishment of a common course numbering system in community colleges and universities by the fourth quarter of the 1975-76 fiscal year.

Once again, bills placing one or more students on the Board of Regents and on boards of trustees of community colleges failed to pass either house. A bill to transfer the School of Criminology from Florida State University in Tallahassee to nearby Florida A&M University also was killed after a brief flap.

The legislature moved to solve a potential problem caused by Florida's public records law. An amendment to the law in 1973 required that records be open to public inspection of any organization or association to which the state or any of its agencies pay dues -- causing a problem with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which refused to open its records pertaining to private institutions and to those outside Florida. The law was clarified to conform to the association's policy.

Outgoing Chancellor Robert B. Mautz urged Governor Reubin Askew to veto a bill which prohibits state agencies from publishing "any report, newsletter, newspaper, or pamphlet not specifically authorized by Florida Statutes without prior approval of the legislature." Although the bill exempts "educational publications," it includes many publications of the Regents and the Department of Education.

Askew subsequently vetoed the bill, citing objections from Mautz as well as from other governmental agencies. He also vetoed a virtually unnoticed line item in the general appropriations bill allocating $90,000 for planning and implementing a School of Osteopathic Medicine at Florida International University in Miami, saying the need for such a school had not been established.

GEORGIA Nancy Lewis, The Atlanta Journal

SPECIAL SESSION

ATLANTA...Fearing a $108 million deficit in the state's original $1.96 billion fiscal 1976 budget, freshman Governor George Busbee called the Georgia General Assembly into a special budget-cutting session less than 10 days before the new fiscal year was to begin. The ultimate result was a reduction of the 32-campus University System of Georgia's appropriation to just about the 1975 level.

The state's 1976 budget had been predicated on revenue growth of 11 percent The state's 1975 budget was based on 6 percent revenue growth. But the actual revenue growth for 1975 eased only slightly past the 2 percent level. That meant at least a $45 million deficit in the 1975 budget; at least a $55 million deficit in the 1976 budget; and no money at all for approximately $25 million in new needs that normally would have been funded by supplemental appropriations.

Balanced against approximately $17 million in money to be lapsed from state agencies--garnered mostly through position freezes in the final months--the expected shortfall totaled $108 million.

The nation's and Georgia's sagging economy already had caused Governor Busbee to trim his revenue predictions twice during the regular legislative session. Because of problems in predicting the revenue, the House decided to take even deeper cuts than Busbee proposed, and trimmed about $150 million from the 1976 spending plan.

Busbee Struck Compromise Package

The Senate stuck with the governor's estimate. But as final unaudited revenue reports confirmed the 1975 deficit would be near $60 million, Busbee struck a compromise package with the House and Senate--who had been deadlocked over which spending level to accept--and cut his revenue projection another $22 million.

The victims of the budget-chopping were:

+++almost $57 million in cost-of-living raises which were to have begun for all state employes on September 1;

+++a $35 million property tax relief program; and

+++$36 million in planned state agency expenditures.

In addition, to cushion the state budget for even greater shortfalls in 1976, the assembly voted to add another $18+ million to the reserve funds. A freeze

on hiring in non-critical service positions continues and the governor has temporarily impounded until January 1 approximately $38 million in capital outlay money.

The total cut from the University System of Georgia's original budget of $276.9 million (excluding raises) was a little more than $7 million and the entire $11.5 million which would have paid the system's 30,000 employes a 5 percent cost-of-living increase.

The original budget for the university system's operations (excluding the pay raises) had been up about $17 million from 1975; $10 million of that new money was for construction. The legislative cutbacks reduced construction funds to $8.5 million, with the rest in temporary custody of the governor.

Back at 1975 Funding Level

The $5.5 million in cutbacks in the educational operations of the 32-college university system puts the system back at about the 1975 funding level, excluding $3 million especially appropriated to cover the system's increased utility costs.

The 15-member Board of Regents which operates the University System of Georgia receives funds from the legislature in a lump-sum appropriation under the state's constitution and then disburses the money to colleges based on budget requests the colleges submit. The regents have imposed across the board 2.4 percent slashes in all institutions' budgets, in addition to the removal of salary raise money. These cutbacks also apply to university-related operations such as the Ccoperative Extension Service.

The elimination of the cost-of-living raise provision leaves university system employees virtually the only ones in state government who won't get any raises this year. There are no merit or longevity raises built into the university system's budget.

The legislature has promised it will consider reinstating the raises--perhaps retroactively--at its first action of the 1976 regular session, provided revenue collections have increased enough to cover the expenditure.

With already-signed contracts in hand stating the higher salary amounts, organizations representing the state's college teachers say they intend to sue to force the university system to pay the greater wages. But the regents have said they have no money to pay the raises, citing an increased enrollment of 15,000 students expected in the fall quarter.

Also cut from the 1976 budget was about $500,000 which was to have funded a $100 increase in tuition payments to freshmen students attending private colleges in the state.

NORTH CAROLINA

Daniel C. Hoover, Raleigh News and Observer

"...legislators were almost immediately warned by budget officials they would face hard times."

RALEIGH...North Carolina legislators grappled with a revenue shortfall of a third of a billion dollars in 1975, but managed to fund a new degree-granting medical school and increase aid to private colleges.

But, there were some casualties: out-of-state tuition was raised; capital improvements other than the East Carolina University Medical School were virtually nil; most state employees were denied a pay raise; and overall budget increases barely kept pace with inflation.

Some additional assistance on the capital improvements front will be provided if the voters approve a $41.8 million bond issue next spring. All of that would go to the university system.

Allocations Much Below Budget Commission Recommendations

In its 1975-77 biennial budget, the General Assembly allocated $552.11 million to the 16-campus state university system and its board of governors. That compares with $546.16 million appropriated for the 1973-75 biennium. (These figures and all appearing hereafter, unless otherwise indicated, refer to appropriations of state tax funds, exclusive of federal aid and institutional receipts.)

The capital improvements budget for the next two years calls for spending $40.5 million, but $32 million will go for development of the 200-student four-year Medical School at East Carolina University at Greenville. Two years ago the legislature allocated $73.7 million for university system capital improvements over the 1973-75 biennium. The 1975 General Assembly appropriated $212.59 million for the 52-unit Community College System, only $1.12 million over the 1973-75 allocation. This reflected a sharp cutback from the recommendations of the Advisory Budget Commission which called for General Fund (state) expenditures of $620.35 million.

The community colleges received only $1.5 million for 1975-77 capital improvements. In 1973, the system was allocated $35.4 million for major expansion programs.

New Construction Virtually Eliminated

University officials had warned that the 1975-77 budget would allow for little or no enrollment increases and capital improvements cutbacks virtually

eliminated any construction at the until now rapidly growing University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus.

However, university faculty and community colleges personnel were among the only state employees to receive a pay raise, although it will be very modest. In the closing days of the session, legislators agreed upon $2.3 million and $4.6 million in raises for each year of the biennium. Other state employes, including the powerful public school teachers lobby and its political action arm, will have to wait until the General Assembly convenes next May to take another look at the budget.

1975 Assembly Was Different

May '76 will mark the Assembly's second effort at annual sessions and will mean it will have met every year since 1973. However, the 1975 gathering, five months in duration, was decidedly unlike the others--or any of recent years. Instead of beginning work with a huge $100 million to $200 million surplus and optimistic revenue estimates, legislators were almost immediately warned by budget officials they would face hard times.

Within a month they had the news: The revenue short-fall would be $290 million. That meant they would have to trim about $300 million from the $6.9 billion budget recommended and prepared by the Advisory Budget Commission (ABC). To further complicate matters, the traditional approach to formulating the legislative budget was scrapped and political infighting developed between the Lieutenant Governor and the House Speaker--both likely candidates for governor.

House - Senate Budgets Didn't Match

In the past, the standard practice was for the Speaker and Lieutenant Governor to appoint joint Appropriations Committees. This resulted in each body being fully aware of the budget steps being taken and when the final document was ready there was little difficulty in approving since the huge joint Committee would have already ironed out the wrinkles.

However, House Speaker James C. Green, a Democrat and tobacco warehouseman from a small eastern county, refused to go along. Instead, Green appointed a Base Budget Committee to study the operating budget and an Appropriations Committee to study expansion requests.

The Senate, under Lieutenant Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., also an eastern Democrat, stuck with the traditional Appropriations Committee which covered both areas.

The result was predictable. Each body came up with its own budget, and they didn't match. The final two weeks of the session, in mid-June, were marked with more than the usual logrolling and psychological warfare as Hunt and Green partisans sought to put their men in the best budgetary light.

ECU Medical School Controversy

After more than a decade of wrangling, the more politically astute and cohesive easterners virtually ended the battle over East Carolina's medical school. The question now is not if, but when the facility will begin turning out family doctors, most of whom, its ardent backers insist, will practice in doctor-poor Eastern North Carolina.

Also, for the first time, the ECU question was debated on the floor. Previously, when funding for the first year and later the second year of the Medical School was discussed, the only debate had been in committee. Despite the floor challenge, ECU backers had the votes and the risky effort of breaking into the budget failed. Regardless of the issue, it almost never works since legislators fear that once the budget is broken, their pet projects and programs could be jeopardized.

ECU opponents, mostly legislators from urban districts and middle-sized Piedmont counties, argued that the facility would eventually cost $100 million to build and $10 million per year in operating expenses. They contended the same result--more doctors--could be obtained for far less money by expanding the existing state medical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They also argued that there is no assurance that ECU physician-graduates will actually locate in the small towns and communities of Eastern North Carolina.

The ECU partisans argued just the opposite and pointed--with considerable effect--to the fact that it was legislative intent to have a medical school there, citing its approval, first as a one-year facility, than as a two-year institution. The $32 million proposal will build the medical school complex, including an addition to Pitt County Memorial Hospital for teaching purposes.

First Step Toward Vet School in Raleigh

Beside the ECU medical school, the legislature took the first step toward establishment of another degree-granting facility, a school of veterinary medicine at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. That matter faces an expected court challenge. The U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has threatened to halt federal funding of the university system unless the facility, or its equivalent, is located at predominantly black North Carolina A&T at Greensboro. The UNC Board of Governors and General Assembly have indicated they will challenge that in court and $500,000 in seed money was appropriated for vet school planning as a demonstration of legislative intent to go ahead.

Aid to Private Colleges Increased

The General Assembly doubled the amount of state aid to private colleges from $200 to $400 per student, although the issue was caught up in last minute

wrangling over whether the extra $200 should go directly to the student or the college. The students will receive the second $200.

Another legislative battle centered around proposals for increasing tuition, as much as $300 per year for out-of-state students and $100 for in-state. Eventually, it became ensnarled in the differing House and Senate budgets and became a trade-off item. The end result was a $50 increase for out-of-state students, none for in-state.

This means that for the 1975-76 academic year, non-North Carolinians will be paying from $1,924 at UNC-Chapel Hill down to $1,620 at Elizabeth City State University. In-state students will remain at $330 for UNC-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State and $246 at smaller institutions such as Pembroke State.

Although it never came up in committee sessions or floor debate, the possible acquisition of financially troubled North Carolina Wesleyan College at Rocky Mount was a major topic of discussions, privately, of legislators and university officials. Wesleyan officials had asked the state to buy the school, with its $3.5 million debt, but the UNC Board of Governors rejected the proposal.

Capital Improvements Bond Issue Bill

The bill setting up a $41.8 million university system capital improvements bond issue passed with ease. Legislators, hard pressed for funds, found it a generally painless way to finance improvements without cutting into ECU medical school account. The referendum will be held in March in conjunction with the state's presidential preference primary. The improvements to be financed include:

+++Western Carolina University, $3.42 million, administrative offices and museum

+++Appalachian, $3.32 million, library book tower

+++Elizabeth City State, $1.2 million, library addition

+++Fayetteville State, $435,000, science building renovation

+++North Carolina A&T, $2.1 million, social science building

+++North Carolina Central, $2.5 million, law building

+++North Carolina State, $2.7 million, Gardner Hall addition

+++Pembroke State, $1.53 million, home economics building; $800,000, construction-restoration of Old Main (first building on the campus of former Indian college)

+++UNC-Asheville, $1.9 million, classroom building

+++UNC-Chapel Hill, $5.37 million, physical education and intramural facility

+++UNC-Charlotte, $6 million, classroom building

+++UNC-Greensboro, $5.15 million, business and economics building

+++UNC-Wilmington, $1.66 million, general classroom building

+++Winston-Salem State, $2.17 million, communications building

+++UNC Board of Governors, $1 million, university-wide elimination of architectural barriers; $500,000 land acquisition

There were no bills or discussions involving major or controversial changes in university policy or operations. Legislation that would have provided for collective bargaining by state employes, including those of the university system, was killed.

Operation and Expansion Appropriations

Appropriations to the Board of Governors and University system for operation and expansion were:

+++Board of Governors, general administration, $7.05 million. Lump sum appropriations, $36.98 million, including, ECU medical school, $32 million; North Carolina Central Law School, $225,000; Vocational Rehabilitation Center, $200,000; ECU medical school operations, $3.7 million

+++Related education programs, $26.61 million

+++UNC-Chapel Hill, academic affairs, $74.63 million; health affairs, $46.58 million; Area Health Education Centers, $11.87 million

+++North Carolina State University adacemic affairs, $65.46 million; industrial extension, $1.44 million; agricultural experiment, $22.34 million; agricultural extension, $17.01 million

+++UNC-Greensboro, $27.95 million

+++UNC-Charlotte, $22.5 million

+++UNC-Asheville, $5 million

+++UNC-Wilmington, $9.7 million

+++East Carolina, $25.1 million

+++North Carolina A&T, $16.6 million

+++Western Carolina, $18.2 million

+++Appalachian State, $26.2 million

+++Pembroke State, $6.55 million

+++Winston-Salem State, $7.01 million

+++Elizabeth City State, $5.5 million

+++Fayetteville State, $7.06 million

+++North Carolina Central, $14.58 million

+++North Carolina School of the Arts, $3.8 million

+++North Carolina Memorial Hospital, $33.55 million

The university system allocation for the 16 campuses, does not include funds for any expansion programs, only for continuing operations. The only funds for expansion were those granted the board of directors and virtually all of that was earmarked for the ECU medical school. The department of Community Colleges' $222.61 million included $16.9 million for expansion and brought warnings from President Ben E. Fountain that the accreditation of some schools would be endangered by the tight budget.

SOUTH CAROLINA Levona Page, The State

"The economy was the underlying theme of much of the action and discussion related to higher education during the 1975 legislative session."

COLUMBIA...For two years, the South Carolina legislature had gone along with South Carolina Commission on Higher Education formula designed to take the politics out of appropriations for colleges and universities, but it got the boot this year because of the economy.

The formula was scuttled when the Senate was forced to trim about $28 million from the House-passed state budget after revenue dropped lower than projected.

State Auditor Pat Smith, who did the cutting at the request of the Senate Finance Committee, said his action on the formula was only temporary. "The formula was just too complicated for the problem we have here," Smith said, referring to the necessary budget reduction. "At this stage, we didn't have time to go back and cut according to the formula."

The auditor came up with a simpler formula: he took the appropriations for the colleges and universities for 1974-75 and just increased their percentages to allow for additional enrollment in 1975-76.

Committees to Study Formula

Amid the flurry of protests over that action and the criticism of the formula itself, the legislature's two appropriations committees agreed to study the formula and make recommendations to the Commission on Higher Education. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Julian LeaMond, D-Charleston, said the study is to "determine whether or not the formula results in equitable appropriations for each of the institutions. There are reasons to believe the formula could be improved."

With the legislature's study committee yet to hold its first meeting, the Commission on Higher Education approved a new formula for the 1976-77 budget year. It made changes in faculty-student ratios, the definition of fulltime equivalent doctoral students, and added a 15 percent allowance for increases in utility costs.

The commission's changes were opposed by both the University of South Carolina and Clemson University. USC Board Chairman T. Eston Marchant of Columbia said the change in definition of fulltime doctoral students and faculty-student ratios would cost USC $6.3 million.

"String Pulling" Not Ended

The action set the stage for 1976 for just what the commission had sought to end with its formula -- the string-pulling by influential higher education institutions to get lawmakers to increase their appropriations.

As designed about three years ago, the formula is aimed at treating all institutions equally, by basing appropriations on the number of fulltime equivalent students, plus one professor for 20 undergraduate students, one for every seven nursing students and four for doctoral engineering students. Salary and other factors are considered and there is an adjustment for programs unique to each institution.

The formula aside, some institutions -- particularly the University of South Carolina -- thought they had been treated badly by the Senate's trimming of the budget. After an extensive lobbying effort covering less than a week, USC, which had suffered the severest cut, managed to get nearly $2 million of about $5 million restored.

USC ended up with a $43.5 million appropriation, an increase of $1.9 million for the 1975-76 year. That included an additional $400,000, for a total of $807,000, for the new medical school authorized last year by the General Assembly. The school is scheduled to begin accepting its first students this fall.

For the University of South Carolina branches, the legislature appropriated funds for three regional campuses to become four-year institutions. The funds will provide for third and fourth-year baccalaureate degree programs at the Aiken, Coastal Carolina and Spartanburg campuses, pending approval of the USC board of trustees.

The state's other university, Clemson, came out with an increase of only $103,890.

The economy was the underlying theme of much of the action and discussion related to higher education during the 1975 legislative session.

Job Freeze

The colleges and universities were included in a job freeze ordered by Governor James B. Edwards, the state's first Republican governor in 100 years. Less than two weeks after taking office, Edwards directed that vacancies not be filled at least until June 30 without the approval of the State Budget and Control Board which he chairs. There had been a slight thaw in the freeze by the time the legislature adjourned on June 25, but no lifting of the moratorium.

Except for approval of bond issues for capital improvements at two institutions, there was little other higher education action in the 1975 session, which, although six months long, was the shortest in recent years.

One resolution which won House approval, but remained in the Senate Education Committee when the legislature adjourned would have urged colleges and universities to teach the biblical theory of creation when they require students to learn the Darwin theory of evolution.

Sponsored by Representative Edward Jack Smith, D-Darlington, a Baptist Sunday school teacher, the resolution stated, "many citizens of this state believe that teaching only one version of the creation tends to overly influence the thinking of students and is contrary to the Christian philosophy of a majority of South Carolinians."

The measure was recalled from the House Education Committee a week before adjournment and passed the lower chamber on a voice vote. Approval came after the House defeated an amendment by Representative William Campbell, D-Richland, to urge student exposure to the evolutionary theories of the Jewish, Muslim, Zoarstian, Shinto, Taoist, Confucian, Buddhist and Hindu religions.

Smith predicted that a confrontation with the State Department of Education may be just around the corner on textbooks similar to those that stirred controversy in West Virginia.

Abolish 12th Grade

Some House members made tentative steps toward an effort to abolish the 12th grade, a move which would send many young persons to college a year younger. A resolution to create a committee to study the feasibility of abolishing the 12th grade was introduced by Representative Ralph Anderson, D-Florence.

It noted that the 12th grade was added to the public school system in 1948 and since that time no review or appraisal has been made to determine its value and contribution to the educational process.

Anderson's resolution never got out of the House Education Committee, but Governor Edwards indicated recently that he backs the lawmaker's efforts.

Aid to Vietnamese Students

Two so-called "Young Turks" in the South Carolina Senate joined with the second-senior member to author a resolution calling for state funds to aid 10 Vietnamese students at USC, but the measure failed to pass. The students were naval officers studying engineering at USC on a Defense Fund scholarship

which was cut off when the government of South Vietnam collapsed. They had no homeland to which they could return and no financial support. USC turned to the state legislature for help, while also appealing to U. S. Senator Strom Thurmond, R-South Carolina, to urge that the Defense Fund money be continued.

In the Senate, the measure was opposed by Senator Gilbert E. McMillan, of Aiken, one of two Republicans in that body, who said state funds should not be used for such a purpose. Thurmond promised to help if he could.

Study of Duplication

On the last day of the legislative session, both houses passed a resolution calling for a study of overlapping and duplication of academic offerings in higher education, technical and vocational institutions.

Authored by four senators, the measure said, "It has become a matter of concern to many citizens of the state, including members of the General Assembly, that there is a substantial overlapping and duplication of academic training in various state-supported institutions within the same geographical area." The resolution directed that a 12-member committee of senators, House members and governor's appointees be named to study the matter and report to the General Assembly no later than March 1, 1976.

Appropriations

Following is a list of appropriations for the higher education institutions as provided in the 1975-76 state budget:

	1975-76	1974-75	Increase
University of South Carolina	$43.5 million	$41.6 million	$1.9 million
Clemson University	25.3 "	25.2 "	103,890 "
Medical University of S. C.	40.6 "	40.6 "	-0-
The Citadel	5.2 "	5.6 "	400,000
Winthrop College	7.2 "	6.3 "	863,000
S. C. State	6.6 "	5.9 "	657,000
Francis Marion	3.4 "	3.2 "	130,000

	1975-76	1974-75	Increase
College of Charleston	$7.1 million	$6.3 million	895,000
Lander College	2.3 "	2.2 "	55,000
Commission on Higher Ed.	1.2 "	1.1 "	56,684
Higher Ed. Tuition Grants Committee (aid to public and private college students)	7.3 "	6.2 "	1.1 million

Capital Improvements

In the area of capital improvements, the legislature authorized a $3.2 million bond issue for a parking garage at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and $1.1 million for faculty and administrative facilities, a marine biology lab and purchase of property at the College of Charleston.

TENNESSEE

Fred Travis, The Chattanooga Times

"...state-operated colleges and universities face spartan times..."

NASHVILLE...As a result of an epidemic of indifference toward higher education in the 89th Tennessee General Assembly, the state-operated colleges and universities face spartan times indeed during the fiscal year beginning July 1. Pay increases for faculty are limited to 2 1/2 percent, and it is apparent no new programs will be financially feasible. Some now in existence may be seriously curtailed or even eliminated.

During the course of the session, John K. Folger resigned as executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. He was replaced by Wayne Brown, an astrophysicist from Union University in Jackson and a close friend and political adviser to Governor Blanton during the 1974 political campaign.

East Tennessee Medical School Funded

The governor's budget funded further development of the East Tennessee medical school at Johnson City and a family care residency training program there even though it won't be ready to begin operating for another year. Money for family care residency programs at Jackson, for which local funds already had been pledged, and for UT-Chattanooga, which was ready to accept the first residents in June, was refused.

The UT Medical Units at Memphis also were denied much-needed funds to assure continued accreditation of some of the programs there. The governor's explanation was that these things---the family care residencies, the demanded improvements at the Medical Units---simply were being postponed one year. He seemed to think the state's economic outlook would be more favorable with the lapse of another 12-month period, but others were pessimistic.

First Cutbacks Since World War II

All this was bound up in the recession which forced the first cutbacks in higher education since World War II. The state's revenues, mainly from consumer taxes, burgeoned with the booming economy, the state agencies and educators felt the ascending tax collections would go on forever.

But the revenue growth was tied in many ways, as was the economic boom, to constantly expanding energy consumption and unending inflation. The energy crunch coupled with the leveling off in price rises slowed the revenue growth to a snail's pace and then halted it entirely, with growing indications of an actual decline.

The legislature spurned Blanton's request for a tax increase. He proposed extending the 3 1/2 percent retail sales tax to commercial leases involving $2,000 or more annually and a severance tax on resources taken from the earth. An additional income of $40 million a year was anticipated from these sources, and the governor said it was needed to close the gap between his budget by $70 million from the one proposed by the previous administration of Governor Winfield Dunn for fiscal 1975.

The commercial lease tax, along with a proposed increase in the sales tax, were killed by the senate finance committee. Blanton had made an irrevocable promise to veto any sales tax increase. His severance tax passed the house and finally was brought to a vote in the senate through pressure applied to the finance committee by Lieutenant Governor John S. Wilder, D-Somerville. But the senate added to it a one-cent increase in the gasoline tax, which the house refused to accept. So the bill was left in a senate-house conference when the legislature recessed until next January.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL CUT BY $49 MILLION

Without added revenue, the legislature set about cutting the appropriations bill by $49 million, with higher education being given its share of reductions. Items eliminated included: money for the tuition grant program, $4.7 million; $600,000 from the UT Medical Units; $800,000 from the fast-growing Shelby State Community College, Memphis; $193,700 from Walters State Community College, $100,000 from the Municipal Technical Advisory Services and the County Technical Advisory Service, both of which are operated by UT on a cooperative basis with local governments.

Legislature Restored Tuition Grant Money

The tuition grant program wasn't included in the governor's budget because, he said, the state couldn't afford it and a federal district court ruled it unconstitutional. But the legislature restored the money recommended for tuition grants by the Higher Education Commission after enacting a law designed to skirt the court decision. The law stated that the students could use the tuition grants for secular education only, causing the U. S. Supreme Court to dismiss an appeal from the ruling holding that the original tuition grant plan in Tennessee was unconstitutional because it violated the church-state separation requirement.

As things finally stood, the legislature appropriated for higher education---the universities and community colleges---$169.2 million compared to $164.8 for fiscal '75. The UT system received for fiscal '76 an appropriation of $67.8 compared to $66.2 for fiscal '75, and the Board of Regents system was increased to $83.3 million from $81.2 million. The UT Medical Units received $18.1 million, compared to $17.3 million appropriated for fiscal 1975.

For the first time in many years, this was insufficient to cover inflation much less permit expansion and improvement. It wasn't even enough to match the 12.4 percent cost of living rise reflected by the government price index, and that meant a cutback in higher education expenditures in terms of constant dollars.

Oddly the governor insisted upon allowing continued development of the Veterinary Medical School at UT Knoxville, which many of the state's educators consider luxury.

At the governor's request, the legislature authorized $16.6 million in bonds for continuing development of the veterinary medicine school. That was the only higher education capital outlay included in the Blanton budget except for $3.5 million for building the new Shelby State Community College, one of the fastest-growing higher education institutions in the state. The legislature did reappropriate money for a few previously authorized projects, such as renovation and conversion of existing structures.

Fees and Tuition Being Raised 10 Percent

The figures are appropriated funds only and don't include student fees, federal aid or income from other sources. Because of the restricted appropriations, colleges and universities are raising fees and tuition by 10 percent. In Tennessee residents of the state are required to pay only a maintenance fee, whereas students coming from outside the state pay tuition. Considerable litigation has taken place over the definition of residence with some questions remaining unsettled even yet.

After the start of fiscal '76 on July 1, the in-state fees at community colleges went to $75 a quarter from $68, at the senior institutions under the Board of Regents, the increase was to $122 from $111 per quarter and to $183 from $165 for a semester. Out-of-state tuition at senior institutions was raised $45 to $1,263 a year and at the community colleges, it was increased by $33 to $1,077 a year.

Higher Costs to Students

Similar increases were imposed by the UT System, last year coupled with stringent economy measures.

"We are having to make adjustments and cuts in certain types of expenditures like travel, equipment, renovations, repairs, avoiding adding new people," Joe Johnson, UT vice president, said. "The 2 1/2 percent increase in the appropriation is insufficient to cover the inflation in energy, paper, books and fixed cost increases for retirement, social security and similar items.

"We will give salary increases with a maximum 2 1/2 percent limit placed on them by the legislature. But we are not imposing any limits on general enrollment. We already have limits on all the schools of the Medical Units. We probably will have to put limits on nursing and architecture. That has nothing to do with our failure to get money for the new architecture building. Because of accreditation requirements, you can only have so many students for each faculty.

"Chances for any new programs are dead," Dr. Johnson continued. "We have enough money to continue development of the medical school; that was included in the governor's budget.

"This is the leanest year public higher education has had in a long, long time in Tennessee---since World War II, I guess," he concluded.

All this adds up to higher costs to the students.

Question on Whether Enrollment Will Be Affected

Administrators differed on the effects of this, some saying enrollment wouldn't be adversely affected while others anticipated a drop in the number of students. Obviously a price increase on anything, including education, squeezes out of the market those who are barely able to be buyers. But there are those who claim the recession is encouraging adult workers laid off temporarily to return to school along with those young people who are squeezed out of the market and temporarily, at least, can find nothing better to do than go to school.

Asked if the increase would drop the enrollment in state Board institutions, Dr. Roy Nicks, chancellor of the Board of Regents, replied: "I hope not; I think not. Our fees are still relatively low, but you know, every time you raise fees, you do price somebody out of the market. Every time you raise fees you move more toward elite higher education, and that's contrary to my philosophy."

Elimination of tuition grants solved one dispute in the legislature---extension of the programs to private business colleges---a costly step which the governor opposed.

There are these other developments:

+++Bills were introduced to prohibit the sale of term papers and dissertations by ghost writers operating on a commercial basis but didn't come to a vote in either house.

+++Approval was given to the use of industrial development bonds by private schools and colleges. The bonds are marketed by local governments and retired with revenue received from the project financed by the securities.

+++The legislature authorized $5 million in state bonds to finance research into magneto hydrodynamics at the UT Space Institute, Tullahoma. The process

permits converting coal into electricity without the expensive burning-steam turbine-generator system and is said to be at least 50 percent more efficient. The MHD financing will be available only if the federal government provides $8 million in grants.

+++Approval was given to allowing transfer among pension systems---from the state retirement system into the UT retirement system and vice versa. It will permit UT faculty to accept temporary appointment to state administrative jobs, such as the education department, and state employes to join the UT staff and faculty without risking the loss of pension benefits.

+++$9 million in bonds for financing an architecture building at UT was approved and vetoed by Governor Blanton. An effort to override the veto failed but it could be attempted again next January when the General Assembly reconvenes. Members of the Knoxville delegation said the UT architecture school, now operating in an old, decaying building, is threatened with loss of accreditation unless better facilities are provided.

+++$9 million in bonds to provide Tennessee State University with a health, physical education, recreation and convocation complex failed to win approval.

+++No serious consideration ever was given to establishing a UT Medical School Authority to take over the UT Medical Units and, in fact, the sponsor, Seantor Edgar H. Gillock, D-Memphis, was unable to suggest a valid reason for the move.

+++The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was reorganized to require that, in the making of future appointments, the governor distribute the membership among each of the state's eight congressional districts. Some areas complained of lack of representation on the commission, for which no geographic requirement had been established. Geographic appointments long were the standard for the UT Board of Trustees, the State Board of Regents and the State Board of Education.

+++Legislators never were able to agree upon a plan of reciprocity, which would allow students from other states to attend Tennessee higher education institutions free if their state granted similar concessions to Tennessee residents. It was argued the plan wasn't needed because of the Academic Common Market established by the Southern Regional Education Board.

+++Local governments were authorized to establish their own community colleges, but nothing is likely to come of it. Local governments currently are suffering the same financial bind that afflicts the state government.

+++A resolution was passed establishing a special commission to study the special financial needs of black colleges and universities.

+++A move to continue former State Education Commissioner J. Howard Warf on the State Board of Regents for three more years failed, and it isn't clear who will take over this ex officio vacancy. The immediate past commissioner, Benjamin E. Carmichael, apparently is ruled out because he is an employe of a Board institution.

TEXAS Richard M. Morehead, The Dallas Morning News

"The 'most significant' action...was passage of Senate Bill 706 to strengthen greatly the powers of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System."

AUSTIN...The "most significant" action of the 1975 Texas legislative session, in Governor Dolph Briscoe's opinion, was passage of Senate Bill 706 to strengthen greatly the powers of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.

The measure was hotly lobbied in the legislature, with Governor Briscoe lending his support to passage of the measure and officials of institutions of higher education, particularly the University of Texas System, working hard against it.

Even after SB 706 went to Briscoe for signature, the higher education lobby succeeded in putting into the conference report of the $12.1 billion two-year state budget bill a total of 136 construction projects at 18 colleges and universities. The House of Representatives showed a majority against these projects but the bill was accepted shortly before the deadline for automatic adjournment.

Governor's Veto Questioned

Governor Briscoe promptly vetoed the 136 building authorizations, along with $27 million appropriated for some of the projects. The Governor estimated that full implementation of the proposed building program could cost as much as one billion dollars, since it included a somewhat open-ended authorization for the University of Houston to buy land in downtown Houston.

Former Governor Allan Shivers, chairman of the University of Texas Board of Regents, said Briscoe's veto of 15 building projects for that institution was without effect since the money would come from the Available University Fund, earned by the Permanent University Fund, which is set up in the State Constitution. Shivers contends this money is not subject to control by the legislature.

Two-thirds of the fund is allocated to the University's main Austin campus and certain branches, mostly medical, and one-third for use by the Texas A&M University system. The money is obtained mostly from oil and gas property owned by the university in West Texas. It has been used primarily for buildings.

Governor Briscoe contended his veto is valid, and at least one University regent agreed with his view that all buildings hereafter must receive prior approval from the Coordinating Board. Among other things, Briscoe said,

bondholders would be reluctant to invest in securities where the project is in dispute.

Texas' 22 senior colleges and universities have an outstanding indebtedness of $1.5 billion for building, with income dedicated for the next 30 years in many cases. Briscoe called this a "building spree" which must be curbed.

"The total cost of higher education has increased in the past 10 years from $164 million to $782 million for 376 percent increase," Briscoe said in his veto message. "Unless the state obtains a coordinated policy in all facets of higher education such rampant costs will bankrupt the state."

Actually the total cost of higher education in Texas, excluding the vetoed funds, still will be $2,278,173,756 for the two years ending August 31, 1977.

This will be $772,441,518 more than spending in the biennium just ending, a 51.3 percent increase in total funds.

20 Year Fight

The fight over establishing an effective coordinating board has been under way in Texas for about 20 years. Governor John Connally made this his primary objective during one session of the legislature, but the result has always been a continued policy of leaving the state-level agency without means of enforcing its recommendations. Usually, it has been the legislature which overrode the Coordinating Board's recommendations against establishing more higher education institutions.

SB 706 requires board approval of all major new construction and repair and rehabilitation; to prohibit all subject matter and degree courses lacking board approval; to make recommendations to the legislature regarding limiting enrollment at each institution and department; to assume state-level supervision over technical-vocational programs above the high school level; to prohibit any off-campus courses not authorized by the board, including those offered in Texas by institutions located in other states; and to set standards of buildings for use by the handicapped.

The legislature's passage of the bill came after Harry Provence, Coordinating Board chairman, had urged lawmakers to "get a handle" on higher education in Texas. He said most of the $1.5 billion debt must be paid off by students through such devices as building use fees.

"In our race for physical and financial wealth, are we forgetting that teachers teach students?" asked Provence. "...It disturbs me to see the emphasis and the pressure and the arm-twisting applied on behalf of every material facet of our institutions except the teachers and students...Unless this trend is stopped, I shudder for the future."

Public senior colleges in the next two years will have budgets totaling $1,154,323,585, up $359 million from the previous biennium, a 45.1 percent increase. Medical and related education will rise $231 million to $497 million for the two years, up 87.2 percent; public junior colleges up $115 million or 58 percent to $314 million. Miscellaneous appropriations make up the remainder including an appropriation to take over an Osteopathic Medical School in Fort Worth which the state has been assisting. Two other proposed new medical schools failed to clear the legislature.

New Legislation

Besides SB 706, more than a score of new laws affecting higher education went into the books, including:

+++Requiring Coordinating Board reports to each biennial legislative session on projected enrollment by areas of study.

+++Requiring junior college districts to get Coordinating Board approval for additional campuses.

+++Authorizing the Coordinating Board to establish minimum standards for course offerings in private schools, where students are eligible for state grants up to $1,000 a year.

+++Increasing tuition charged foreign students from $14 an hour to $40 per semester hour, the previously-set fee for non-resident students.

+++Authorizing maximum $6 per semester hour building use fees as public senior institutions, with specified exceptions.

+++Exempting children of disabled firemen and peace officers from all dues and fees.

+++Authorizing reciprocal tuition agreements for certain Texas students in counties adjacent to other states.

+++Permitting Southwest Texas State University to levy, with approval at a student election, a $10 per semester fee for bus service.

+++Permitting forgiveness of state loans to medical graduates and psychologists who work for four years in state welfare, mental institutions and penal institutions, by contract with the Coordinating Board.

+++Setting up procedures for Texas residents taking medical education in foreign countries (particularly Mexico) to qualify for practice here after a year of clinical training in the U. S. and passing standard tests.

+++Allowing payment of $100 monthly stipends for medical students -- in addition to regular financial aids -- for agreeing to practice general medicine in small towns and rural areas for at least four years.

+++Establishing new $1,000 per student grant programs for senior colleges and smaller sums to junior college students, administered by the Coordinating Board.

+++Establishing a division of Planning Coordination in the Governor's Office for Federal Programs.

+++Requiring annual rather than biennial financial reports by institutions of higher education.

+++Increasing travel allowances to 15 cents per mile.

+++Directing the state to pay the full cost of group health and life insurance of senior college system employes under Teacher Retirement Act. Benefits for retired teachers were increased about 10 percent.

+++Making an emergency appropriation of $10.8 million additional for utilities expenses in higher education in the fiscal year ending August 31, 1975.

+++Submitting a proposed new constitution for a general election in November 1975, almost identical with one which the legislature sitting as a convention failed to submit in 1974. (See 1974 SREB report)

In a session devoted to education to an unusual degree, the legislature also increased appropriations for public schools by nearly $1 billion to $3.7 billion for two years. Minimum teacher salaries were increased by $1,400 a year to $8,000 for beginning teachers with a bachelor degree. Governor Briscoe failed to get the legislature to approve a new approach allocating funds according to courses each student is taking.

The legislature appropriated all of a $1 billion surplus in the state treasury, estimated for the next two years. As a result, fiscal experts predict a large tax increase will be needed by 1977 to sustain the new level of spending. Governor Briscoe disagrees. He contends improved business conditions will increase tax revenues. The Texas Legislature has not increased taxes since 1971.

An appropriation of $64,000 a year was made for support of the Southern Regional Education Board, up from $43,000 annually in the previous budget.

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LOUISIANA

Edwin W. Price Jr., Baton Rouge Morning Advocate

"...the major bone of contention was a giant capital outlay bill."

BATON ROUGE...Creation of five new boards of higher education, as mandated by the new Louisiana constitution, and financial matters occupied most of the legislative attention to education during the 1975 session.

The five boards are headed by the Board of Regents, which has administrative and financial control over major higher education matters; the Board for Elementary and Secondary Education, which administers those areas of education as well as the state's greatly expanded vocational-technical education program; the Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities, which is a managerial board for institutions formerly operated by the old State Board of Education; a Board of Supervisors for Louisiana State University and a Board of Supervisors of Southern University.

The three higher education boards are designed as working managers for the campuses under their jurisdiction, and are all supposed to be responsible to the Board of Regents, which must approve new programs and major changes and expenditures.

Operating Budgets Increased 12.4%

The Legislature in 1975 added more than $22 million to the operating budgets of higher education institutions. The 12.4% increase over the 1974-75 fiscal year to a total of $199.1 million was distributed so that the average state funding of all schools was 88% of a formula based on student credit hours at each university. The average state funding for 1974-75 was 82%.

Individually, the precentage of formula implementation for 1975-76 ranged from 85% in the case of several universities to 121% for the smallest two-year branch of LSU.

The level of all schools in the LSU system was 88% of the formula; of all schools in the Southern University system, 88%; and of all the remaining state universities, 88%.

A table showing the comparative distribution of the $199.1 million in state funds follows this article.

The operating funds were distributed under the student credit hour formula established by the Board of Regents, with some deviations which caused a great deal of hue and cry. For instance, LSU receives some extra funding for various

educational and public service programs which extend throughout the state and which are conducted in addition to the regular classroom work on campus.

Capital Outlay Bill Disputes

But the major bone of contention was a giant capital outlay bill, which included many projects for the state's colleges and universities. One of the biggest disputes arose over the priorities in these projects. The Baton Rouge campus of LSU is receiving some $5 million for an addition to the football stadium, a project which is No. 6 on the university's own list of capital improvement priorities. A token appropriation was included for preliminary studies on a new School of Environmental Design, a school which is now housed in five buildings scattered over the campus. Baton Rouge Chancellor Paul Murrill says classroom space is at a premium and this is the single worst problem of the campus this year.

Students Circulated Petition

Students reacted to the action by circulating a petition calling for a halt on the stadium work (which started immediately) and the transfer of the funds to more critical academic areas. However, the Bond Commission immediately sold the stadium bonds, so the protest is likely to have little effect.

Protest at U of Southwestern Louisiana

At the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, students and faculty joined in an opening day boycott of classes to protest what they called underfunding, and particularly to protest the low salary increases for the faculty.

There was some surprise when Gov. Edwards signed en toto the bloated appropriations and capital outlay bills, which had ballooned enormously during their passage through the Legislature, in this election year.

$37.5 Million for Construction

On the non-operational side of the ledger, higher education received a $37.5 million slice--about one-seventh--of a $261 million general state obligation bond issue for various construction projects. The two largest campus items were: $10.7 million, supplemented by private industry donations, to build the

Center for Engineering and Business Administration at LSU in Baton Rouge; $12 million for an educational building at the LSU Medical School in New Orleans; and $6 million for the new School of Veterinary Medicine at LSU-Baton Rouge.

Of the highly politically-inspired $181.9 million capital outlay bill, university campuses drew a $54 million share--$40.4 million in state funds and $13.6 in self-generating revenues--for various improvements. The largest projects on this list are $5.6 million to construct facilities at the former Delgado Trade School in New Orleans, now elevated to university status, and $5 million for the controversial stadium addition at LSU-Baton Rouge.

State Support for Private Schools

The Legislature took a step in a new direction by passing legislation authorizing payment to certain private colleges and universities for Louisiana students who receive their degrees. Specific colleges were named, but the bill was generally conceded to be primarily for the benefit of Tulane University in New Orleans, which faces financial problems. For the past two years, the state has been supplementing its medical school revenue by paying a certain amount for Louisiana students attending Tulane Medical School. The new legislation, however, expands this payment policy to the entire university and to others over the state. The head of Louisiana College at Pineville, a Baptist institution, said however, that he will not apply for state funds, since it is against the principle of separation of church and state.

Tuition exemptions were approved for persons over 65 and for members of the National Guard.

Legislators attempted to mandate the Board of Regents to conduct a number of studies, most of them dealing with expanding the curricula or existing institutions.

Law School Study Killed

A resolution seeking a feasibility study of establishing full-time law schools at the University of New Orleans and at LSU in Shreveport was killed, but one seeking a study of the need for a four-year curriculum at LSU-Alexandria, now a two-year college, was approved. The Legislature also adopted a resolution asking a study of the feasibility of granting associate degrees by nationally accredited proprietary schools, but declined to recognize the New Covenant College in New Orleans as a degree-conferring institution.

Several efforts to create a Louisiana Student Government Commission and to establish student intern programs in state government were killed. One of these would have authorized the governor to set up such a program.

Some Pay Increases

Academic personnel at colleges and universities did get some pay increases, but a bill to provide tenure for such personnel died in the Senate Education Committee. And an attempt to order a study of teacher preparatory programs in the state's colleges and universities also died in committee.

Breakdown of State Funds

The following is a comparative breakdown of state funds for 1974-75 and 1975-76 showing percent of implementation of the student credit hour formula for both years, dollar and percentage increases and the total funding for all universities.

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SYSTEMS	74-75 State Funds	74-75 Impl. Level	75-76 State Funds	75-76 Dollar Increase	75-76 Percent Increase	75-76 Impl. Level	75-76 All Sources
Total-LSU	$89.0	85%	$101.3	$12.8	14%	88%	$134.6
LSU-Impl. Formula Only	50.2	85	56.1	5.9	12	88	75.1
LSU-Non-Formula	38.8	---	45.7	6.9	16	---	59.5
Total-Southern	15.5	85	17.1	1.6	10	88	20.6
Total-All Other Universities	72.5	80	80.2	7.7	11	88	101.1

INSTITUTION	74-75 State Funds	74-75 Impl. Level	75-76 State Funds	75-76 Dollar Increases	75-76 Percent Increase	75-76 Impl. Level	75-76 All Sources
LSU-Baton Rouge	$32.9	84%	$37.3	$4.4	13%	85%	$51.5
LSU-Medical	18.2	---	21.9	3.7	20	---	27.0
LSU-Ag Center	17.0	---	19.7	2.7	16	---	28.4
Southwestern	12.9	81	13.6	.7	6	85	17.1
University of New Orleans	11.6	81	12.4	.8	7	86	16.2
Southern-Baton Rouge	11.6	84	12.4	.8	7	87	15.4
Louisiana Tech	10.6	86	11.0	.4	4	89	15.2
Northeast	10.3	73	12.0	1.7	17	85	14.6
Northwestern	8.9	80	9.5	.6	7	85	11.3
Southeastern	7.3	77	8.1	.8	12	85	10.1
McNeese	7.2	84	7.6	.4	6	88	9.3
Nicholls	6.6	83	7.0	.4	7	85	8.4
Grambling	5.6	110	5.9	.3	5	116	8.5
Delgado	3.3	55	5.1	1.8	56	85	6.8
LSU-Shreveport	2.9	104	3.2	.3	12	119	3.9
Southern-New Orleans	2.6	77	2.8	.2	9	85	3.8
LSU-Retirement	2.5	---	3.0	.5	21	---	3.0
LSU-Alexandria	1.7	80	1.8	.1	6	89	2.0
Southern-Shreveport	1.2	100	1.3	.1	9	107	1.4

INSTITUTION	74-75 State Funds	74-75 Impl. Level	75-76 State Funds	75-76 Dollar Increase	75-76 Percent Increase	75-76 Impl. Level	75-76 All Sources
LSU-Eunice	1.1	110	1.2	.1	14	121	1.3
LSU-Administrative	1.0	----	3.0	.5	6	----	1.1
TOTAL--All Universities	$177.0	82%	$199.1	$22.1	12.4%	88%	$256.3

ALABAMA

Al Fox, The Birmingham News

"...all levels of public schools floundering in a maze of economic uncertainty."

For the second time in four years, the Alabama Legislature adjourned the regular session without funding education and left all levels of public schools floundering in a maze of economic uncertainty.

The day after the lawmakers adjourned without passing a proposed $785 million budget for the Special Education Trust Fund (SETF) for the current fiscal year, Gov. George C. Wallace, acting under police power provisions of the state Constitution, issued an executive order implementing his proposed budget and then took off for a two-week, six-nation tour of Europe.

His executive order was backed up by an opinion from Atty. Gen. Bill Baxley who ruled that Wallace acted under his police powers to insure operations of "essential" functions of government and the Constitution guarantees an educational program in Alabama.

But Baxley admitted that he may have "stretched the law" in issuing a ruling which was directly different from one he had issued four years ago.

As he took off for Europe, Wallace left behind a proclamation calling the Legislature back into session for Nov. 3 to once again tackle the education budget.

Effort to Block Wallace's Action

His actions were immediately attacked by State Sen. John Baker of Rainsville, an attorney, who sought to block Wallace's action in releasing state funds without legislative action.

Circuit Judge Eugene Carter has given both sides until early November to file written briefs and the Legislature will be well into the special session before he issues a ruling on the constitutional question.

Things Are Different from 1971 Situation

Things are different this year than they were in 1971 when the entire state operated for 53 days without either an education or a general fund budget.

Programs Shifted from General to Education Fund

The Legislature shifted the funding of the Partlow School for the Mentally Retarded in Tuscaloosa from the general fund to the education fund which released $19 million in the general fund for other mental health needs. In addition, two education programs at the University of Alabama and the University of South Alabama also were shifted from the general fund to the SETF at a cost to the education fund of $2½ million.

Baker, the senator who filed the suit against Wallace, probably would not have done so if the governor had merely "extended" the budget under which education had operated for the past fiscal year.

But when Wallace issued his executive order, it was the budget he originally proposed to the Legislature and included several amendments which had been approved by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Included in his executive order was a $1,000 per year pay raise for teachers and a $1 million appropriation for the acquisition of Athens College, a financially ailing four-year institution operated by the Methodist Church Conference.

Wallace has not released the money for the acquisition of the Athens school which legislators in the area propose as a two-year institution for the two upper college grades.

But, the move is opposed by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the State Board of Education.

Improvements Made to Teacher Retirement System

The biggest plus for education in the past session were the improvements made to the teacher retirement system which the executive director of the retirement systems for state employes contends gives Alabama the best retirement system of any state in the nation.

Teachers can now retire with full benefits after 30 years of service, regardless of age. Another new law allows a teacher to count up to four years of military service toward computing the 30 years of service. Social Security could be drawn in addition to full benefits.

The formula for computing retirement benefits was increased and a former limitation of drawing up to 80 per cent of maximum benefits was erased. Now a

teacher can retire at 100 per cent benefit.

Already retired teachers were given a 15 per cent increase in the benefits they are now drawing.

In addition, under the new retirement bill other school employes not previously covered under the retirement plan were brought under the provisions. This includes janitors, maintenance personnel and bus drivers.

$8.5 Million to U. of Alabama

The Legislature also rushed through a special $8.5 million appropriation for the University of Alabama in Birmingham for the purchase of 40 blocks of land adjoining the campus near downtown Birmingham. Part of an urban renewal project, the land is needed for the expansion of the University Medical Center and the University College, a school of general studies.

The salary of the state superintendent of education was increased from $27,000 annually to $40,000. The State Board of Education recently hired Dr. Wayne Teague, former superintendent of Auburn City Schools, for the state's top education post.

Although not actually part of the education program, the Legislature approved a $2 million general obligation bond issue which must be approved by the voters next January for a new seed technology center to be located on the campus of Auburn University. However it will be operated by the State Department of Agriculture and Industries.

More Losses than Gains

But there were more losses on the side of education than gains and if any are proposed during the special session, they will have to be approved by a three-fifth vote of the two houses rather than the simple majority vote for those bills in Wallace's call of the session.

The biggest defeat was probably in the erosion of public support for education, especially in some programs pushed by AEA and others which several figure endangered the education budget.

A major issue for AEA was a "meet and confer" bill to give teachers the right to meet with boards of education with third-party arbitration, although it would not be binding arbitration. The most vocal opponents of the measure, in

At that time, a group of banks came to the rescue and made special no-interest loans to state employes equal to the amount of the bi-weekly take-home pay and made low-interest loans to local boards of education for operating funds.

But the banks were not waiting in the wings this time with the same deal to temporarily bail out education and Wallace used his executive authority.

Release Has Cost SETF $1 Million

But his haste in ordering the release of almost $100 million to fund education for October and November has cost the SETF an estimated $1 million in interest. State Treasurer Melba Till Allen said the money which had to be withdrawn to meet Wallace's order would have brought in that much interest if it had remained in the bank for another two weeks under the state program of placing most reserve funds in interest-bearing time deposits.

Legislature Considering One Year Budgets

For the first time in history, the Legislature was considering budgets for a one-year period. A constitutional amendment passed earlier in the year by the people, calls for the Legislature to begin meeting in annual sessions in 1976.

The budget battle began when the regular session opened on May 6 with Wallace proposing the diversion to the general fund of $40 million in taxes now going to the SETF.

This plan was rejected quickly by a Legislature which seemed more willing to go along with education than the governor.

But education forces, prodded heavily by the Alabama Education Association (AEA), began overplaying their hand and lost some legislative support. In the Legislature 30 of the 105 members of the House (there is one vacancy) are education-oriented either as administrators, professors, or teachers in junior colleges, trade schools or secondary and elementary schools.

And AEA had other support from non-educators due to a successful campaign in the 1974 primaries and general election electing several to the Senate and House.

The general fund was pushed through in the final week of the session with a partial diversion of education funds but now referred to as a "transfer."

the House, were led by members who are school administrators.

The Legislature also rejected an education plan that professional dues would be withheld by local boards of education, similar to a union dues checkoff plan.

Special Senior Citizen Privileges Turned Down

A proposal for free tuition for all persons over 65 years of age was turned down as was a proposal for free school library privileges for those over 65.

Once the SETF budget is approved, it appears that Alabama is on the way to beginning a permissive kindergarten program. Lawmakers on both sides seem prepared to include initial funds in the budget.

The presidents of the 13 four-year colleges have been unable to come to grips with presenting the Legislature with a unified budget for higher education which leaves the lawmakers in each of the districts with a four-year institution of higher learning seeking to pork-barrel the budget measure once the door is opened for one school.

And the Legislature failed to put some teeth in the law creating the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). The commission was originally established to direct the activities of higher education and prevent the creation of a new curricula or establish a branch campus without approval by ACHE or having the Legislature overrule the action of the commission if the expansion move was denied.

Meanwhile, Alabama's education system is operating by executive order and if the court rules that unconstitutional, the pressure will be on the lawmakers to act before Dec. 1.

If not the executive order may have to be extended beyond the holiday period.